

so-wealthy. We don't value the powerful less when we say our first responsibility is to help the powerless. And we do not value those who are secure less when we say our first priority must be to help the insecure.

These recent events have forced us all to think anew, and while I have learned many things over these last few months, I keep returning to something I first learned in my father's church as a child. In these most modern of crises, I am drawn to the most ancient of truths. Wherever there is hardship, wherever there is suffering, we cannot, we will not, we will never pass by on the other side.

But you know, working together there is no challenge to which we're not equal. There's no obstacle we can't overcome. There's no aspiration so high it cannot be achieved.

In the depths of the Depression, when Franklin Roosevelt did battle with fear itself, it was not simply by the power of his words, his personality, and his example that he triumphed. Yes, all these things mattered, but what mattered more was this enduring truth: that you, the American people, at your core, were, as you remain, every bit as optimistic as your Roosevelts, your Reagans and your Obamas.

And this is the faith in the future that has always been the story and promise of America. So, at this defining moment in history, let us renew our special relationship for our generation and our times. Let us work together to restore prosperity and protect this planet, and with faith in the future, let us together build tomorrow today.

Thank you.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 11 o'clock and 43 minutes a.m., the Right Honorable Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Majority Floor Services Chief escorted the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps from the Chamber.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 11 o'clock and 49 minutes a.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1245

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR of Arizona) at 12 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

HEALTH CARE—IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Ladies and gentlemen of America, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$20 billion to accelerate the adoption of health information systems by doctors and hospitals; these are electronic medical records. This will modernize health care in this country, it will save billions of dollars by reducing the need for duplicate diagnostic procedures, it will reduce medical errors and improve the quality of services. This will create or save hundreds of thousands of jobs, many in the high-tech sectors, tens of billions of dollars in system-wide savings, including a net reduction in private health insurance premiums for families.

I want the public to know that it's time for change. Our health care system should have been addressed many, many years ago, but under this new administration and under this Democratic leadership of this fine body, we are doing what needs to be done in order to put this country in a posture it needs to be in for the new millennium.

TAX DEDUCTIONS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents, Gail, from Lititz, Pennsylvania, recently wrote to me about a provision in the President's recently released budget. She said, among other things, "God has blessed us abundantly in many ways; in turn, we have been able to bless others. We donate a very large percentage of our income to the hungry, homeless, orphaned and widowed. We are in the top tax bracket. Any increase in our taxes or decrease in our charitable deductions will not hurt our standard of living, it will, indeed, hurt the very people that the government is trying to help."

When Alexis de Tocqueville wrote with praise for America, he cited our civic institutions, like churches and other nonprofit organizations, as the basis for our strength in the Nation. The Obama administration is woefully misguided if they think reducing the tax credit for charitable donations will help America. During an economic recession, our churches, charities, and other community organizations that assist many individuals quicker and more effectively than government programs will be harmed. It's a mistake to change our tax policy to reduce funding to these organizations when their help is needed most in communities across America.

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW FOR HEALTH CARE

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Last week, President Obama submitted a budget that expresses his commitment to transforming health care in America. Tomorrow, he will gather Members of Congress, consumers, business men and women, and health care providers at the White House to discuss how to achieve the common goals he laid out in the budget, "constraining costs, expanding access, and improving quality."

The economic crisis we face is not a cause for delay, it is an argument for comprehensive reform. The need for action couldn't be clearer. Every percentage increase in the unemployment rate means another 1.1 million Americans becomes uninsured.

Over half of all Americans, many of them insured, are doing without medical care because of high costs. Emergency rooms are being forced to turn away patients, and businesses that cover their workers are struggling to be competitive in the face of rising premiums.

We must assure that all Americans are covered and give each a choice of a public health insurance plan or private plan that provides comprehensive, affordable and high-quality care. The time to act is now.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE THE SOLUTION

(Mr. CHAFFETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise with concern about the President's budget.

Now is not the time to be raising taxes. We should not be raising rates, nor should we diminish the benefits for people who are paying their mortgage as they should be. As determined as the Democrats are to raise taxes, you don't fuel the engines of economic growth by penalizing those who are responsible,